



# Dezenvolvimentu Oras Ne

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The Coral Triangle Initiative seeks to protect the extraordinary marine ecosystems of Timor-Leste and 5 other countries in the region. See page 3.

Photo: Brian Francisco/MSD



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## ITA NIA RAI PHOTO SNAPSHOT



A residential area on the way to Liquica.



Madalena Soares da Silva, of Ma'abat, Manatuto, was the first person in Timor-Leste to register a land claim through the USAID-supported process.



Volunteers are hard at work registering land claims in their communities in the pilot districts.

Photos: ARD

## Land Claims Registration Underway in 2 Pilot Districts

A total of 575 land claims have been registered through the USAID-supported "Strengthening Property Rights in Timor-Leste" (known locally as "Ita Nia Rai" or "Our Land") project, working with the National Directorate for Land and Property (DNTPSC). The team started registering land claims in November 2008 in two pilot areas—Liquica (west of Dili) and Manatuto (east of Dili).

This is the first time Timorese have had the opportunity to register claim to property since the country gained its independence. A November 2006 USAID conflict vulnerability assessment confirmed that land tenure and conflicts over property rights were critical issues for the country's stability. Insecure property rights also serve to discourage productive investments in most sectors of the economy.

A team of 22 volunteers trained by the project continues to record land claims in their communities. The volunteers went through a month-long training course involving practical exercises and field simulations to prepare them for this task.

One of the first in Timor-Leste to make a land claim was Mrs. Madalena Soares da Silva, a widow from the Ma'abat area of Manatuto District. The land where her house stands was handed down to her from her grandfather through her mother. "I agreed on my boundaries with my neighbors and we didn't have any problems about that. I feel happy that I have registered my claim and hope that, in the future, the government will give me a title to my land," she said.

This is only the beginning for claimants like Mrs. da Silva whose hopes rest in the passage of a much-awaited Land Law in Timor-Leste that formally recognizes people's property rights through land titles.

Transparency is an integral aspect of the claims collection process. In the pilot areas, maps will be displayed in February 2009 to allow the community to scrutinize all the results from their area. As yet, nobody has disputed Mrs. da Silva's land claim. The Ita Nia Rai field manager in Manatuto noted that "relatively few disputes (about ten percent of recorded claims) have arisen so far".

"Overall, people are just appreciative of the opportunity to make their claim, and they are understanding that others must also have the same opportunity," said "Ita Nia Rai" conflict resolution specialist, David Alves Lopes.

This is the first time Timorese have had the opportunity to register claim to property since the country gained its independence.

According to Mr. Antonio Verdial de Sousa, DNTPSC Director, the land claims recording activity will be expanded to other areas soon. "Following the success of the program in the pilot areas, we plan to expand the activity in two new areas—Aileu (south of Dili) and Baucau (east of Dili) in early 2009. We have already started consulting with the local authorities there, and they are ready to welcome the program," Mr. Verdial de Sousa said.

"Strengthening Property Rights in Timor-Leste" is a five-year project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Working with the government of Timor-Leste, the program provides technical and policy support to develop a sustainable and transparent property rights system in the country. The program is implemented by ARD Inc, ACDI/VOCA, Land Equity International, and local NGO Belun.

### Community Meetings

"We heard about this project at a community meeting. When we found out they [land registration teams] were coming, my neighbors and I met together to discuss our joint boundaries," --Domingos da Silva, of Ma'abat, Manatuto

Prior to the land claims registration, community meetings were held in the two pilot districts from September to December 2008 informing the public about the land claims collection process.

The community meetings were complemented by information materials, including an 18-minute film and comic-strip style posters explaining the process.



In women-only meetings, women speak up about the challenges they face in securing land rights.

### Women's Involvement

In recognition of the cultural and social challenges that Timorese women face in securing land rights, the project gave special emphasis to reaching out to women and involving them in the land data collection process.

Two women-only workshops were held in each pilot area. The workshops not only gave women an opportunity to learn about their land rights and the claims collection process, but also encouraged them to discuss constructively the challenges facing them in securing land rights.

At community meetings, the project's outreach team stressed the constitutional provision on equal rights by men and women to own property.

"I'm happy that I have registered my land claim. I hope that, in the future, the government will give me a land title." --Madalena Soares da Silva, widow, of Ma'abat, Manatuto



# NEWS ROUND-UP

## Prepara Ami Ba Servisu (PAS) Project Keeps Youth Busy in Baucau, Aileu and Ainaro



The PAS Learning Center in Aileu where the classroom instructions for the program will be held. Photo: PAS

**USAID's Prepara Ami ba Servisu (PAS) work readiness program is now in three districts —Baucau, Aileu and Ainaro—reaching 200 out-of-school youth.** New activities were launched in Aileu and Ainaro on December 15, 2008 in collaboration with NGO training partner, Fundacao Cristal.

Community leaders welcomed the youth participants and motivated them to make the most of the work readiness program to improve their economic prospects.

Recognizing the importance of youth in building a better future for Timor-Leste, PAS Chief of Party Brenda Barrett told the participants during the launch: "We want to help mold strong

young people. This is because we believe that strong people make strong communities, and strong communities in turn make a strong nation."

Meanwhile, in Baucau, where the PAS program started in July 2008, over 100 youth participants are completing the first phase of the program. They have participated in the construction of a hospital through PAS work sponsor

PAS is an integrated learning and working program for out-of-school rural youth.

Mogrin Construction and helped rehabilitate a community center. They also gained hands-on experience working at a candlenut processing site in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), USAID's implementing partner for the Candlenut Industry Expansion project.

In Aileu and Ainaro, Fundacao Cristal trainers and team leaders, who have received training from the PAS program training specialists, started implementing the PAS program with a two-week orientation for participants.

Those who show commitment and dedication to the program will continue onto the eight-month program designed to help increase the income-earning potential of youth in rural areas. Over half of the participants starting the program are women, and most have not attended secondary school.

USAID's PAS program is a \$5 million, three-year work readiness program for Timor-Leste's out-of-school youth. Education Development Center Inc. (EDC), a US-based, non-profit education research and development organization, is implementing the program.

The PAS program provides minimally-educated rural men and women, aged 16-30, with classroom instruction and on-the-job training. The classroom instruction covers the areas of work readiness, financial literacy and entrepreneurship, technical work, leadership and other life skills. Fundamental mathematics, reading and writing instruction are incorporated into activities associated with each set of skills. The classroom learning component follows a curriculum that was designed and written

locally for the PAS program. To complement the classroom learning, participants also undergo an on-the-job training where they work together in groups of 50.

For four months, the program combines classroom and worksite learning for youth participants, followed by another four months

of support and assistance in continuing education, finding work, or developing a business idea to become self-employed.

By the end of the three-year program, the USAID PAS program will have successfully trained at least 2,500 youth throughout the country.



NCBA's agroforestry advisor Shane McCarthy (left) with PAS Chief of Party Brenda Barrett. Photos: NCBA



**Tree Planting.** On January 13, 2009, over 100 youth participants of USAID-supported Prepara Ami Ba Servisu work readiness program in Baucau planted tree seedlings donated by another USAID partner National Cooperatives' Business Association (NCBA). NCBA, which is implementing the USAID-funded Timor Economic Rehabilitation and Development Project, gave the participants 2,000 tree seedlings to plant as part of a community improvement project.

## Anti-Corruption Public Education Campaign



Photos: (Left) Timor-Leste President Jose Ramos-Horta (right) and Provedor Sebastiao Dias Ximenes unveil the anti-corruption banner during the World Anti-Corruption Day celebrations in Dili. (Right) Secondary students viewing the anti-corruption public education exhibit following the launch of the campaign. Photos: MSD

In observance of the World Anti-Corruption Day (December 9, 2008), the Provedor's Office for Justice and Human Rights launched its anti-corruption public education campaign in a ceremony held in the capital Dili. Anti-corruption public edu-

cation materials were exhibited during the celebration. Drama programs raising public awareness on corruption issues will soon be aired on television and radio as part of the campaign. The campaign is supported by USAID through the Justice In-



stitutions Strengthening Project, implemented by Management Sciences for Development, Inc. (MSD).

In a related development, USAID supported a series of workshops in December 2008 between investigators of the Provedor's Office and prosecutors of the Office of the Inspector-General where the participants discussed the progress of implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding the two institutions signed in April 2008. This is to ensure that cases involving corruption and human rights violations investigated by the Provedor's Office are handed over smoothly to the Prosecutor-General's Office for prosecution.

## PARLIAMENTARY RESOURCE CENTER INAUGURATED

On January 9, 2009, President of National Parliament, Fernando La Sama de Araujo, officially inaugurated the Parliamentary Research Center at the National Parliament of Timor-Leste. The ceremony was also attended by Vice Presidents of National Parliament and its Members, the U.S. Ambassador, USAID Representative, The Asia Foundation Representative and representatives of international and national NGOs.

The Center was established to help the National Parliament

staff maintain library resources and IT infrastructure, originally provided by the House Democracy Assistance Commission, and strengthen legislative research functions. The Parliament also partnered with the Library of Congress, USAID, and The Asia Foundation.

Parliament President Fernando de Araujo Lasama underscored the importance of the Center in nation building and expressed hope that it would still be serving the parliamentarians and the nation even beyond 2012.



National Parliament President Fernando LaSama de Araujo led the inauguration of the Parliamentary Resource Center on January 9, 2009.

Photo: TAF



## USAID Awards \$209,462 Grants to Five Local Groups for Hotel and Tourism Industry Internship, Agribusiness Projects

The USAID-funded Timor-Leste Dezenvelope Sétor Privadu (DSP) project recently awarded five grants amounting to \$209,462 to local institutions to help them implement workforce development and livelihood projects. The projects to be implemented under the grant include training Timorese youth for work in the hospitality/tourism industry and improving agricultural export marketing. This support is in line with DSP's strategy to increase income generation, build a better tourism industry and strengthen agribusiness in Timor-Leste.



The grants will expand a successful pilot hospitality and tourism industry internship program implemented by USAID in mid-2008 that resulted in 21 out of 26 participating interns obtaining a job. More than ten restaurants and hotels around the capital of Dili are providing on-the-job training to interns for six months for two periods as part of the program.

Photo: DAI

The five grant recipients are the Dili Institute of Technology (DIT), Escola Tecnica Maria de Mazarello Venilale (ETP Venilale), Centro Treino Integral Dezenvolvimentu Baucau (CTID), Comiko Diak and East Timor Development Agency (ETDA). They will implement 14-month programs under the USAID grants.

Four of the grants are directed to the hospitality and tourism sector. Three training institutions are getting support for upgrading training facilities and improving the quality of student training in order to respond to the industries' demand. ETDA also got a grant

to coordinate and monitor the hospitality and tourism industry internship program.

The internship program is being undertaken in response to the demand by the hospitality and tourism industry, following the success of the pilot internship program implemented by USAID in mid-2008. More than ten restaurants and hotels around Dili are participating in the program this time, by giving on-the-job training to interns for six months for two periods.

The last grant will fund the purchase of materials for construction of storage facilities for agriculture commodities in

the southern district of Suai. The storage facilities will make it possible for the community to gather larger quantities of agricultural products, particularly mungbeans, for export to Indonesia.

USAID, through the private sector development project, has helped the community boost their mungbean production for possible export to Southeast Asian markets. Through various projects, USAID is helping farmers diversify their sources of incomes as a strategy to transform Timor-Leste's agriculture system from its current subsistence nature to one that is commercially oriented and self-reliant.

## FIRST BATCH OF 49 STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM COFFEE ACADEMY

Forty-nine students completed a three-year course that covers agriculture, agribusiness management, and coffee production offered by the East Timor Coffee Academy. On January 23, top officials of the Southern Cross

Thirty-five of the graduates are already working for the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperativa Café Timor. Graduates who got good grades have been offered slots for further studies by the Indonesian universities.

**East Timor Coffee Academy offers a three-year course that covers agriculture, agribusiness management and coffee production.**

University in Australia, Bogor Agricultural Institute and Brawijaya University in Indonesia, institutions which helped develop the curriculum, joined the Minister of Agriculture in addressing the graduates.

The East Timor Coffee Academy was established in 2003 through USAID's Timor Economic Rehabilitation and Development Project, and was accredited by the Ministry of Education in 2008.

## A NEW DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY

USAID is taking the lead in coordinating the next Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) in Timor-Leste. Other partners include the Ministry of Health, National Statistics Directorate, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UNIFEM.

Preparatory work has begun, with the bulk of the field work planned to take place later this year. The DHS will provide definitive evidence regarding the effectiveness of USAID's investments in the health sector since 2005.

The last DHS was conducted in 2003. USAID is one of the leading donors in the area of maternal and child health and the leading donor supporting the public health system at the district level and below.



## Photo Gallery: Timor-Leste's Underwater Wonderland



Underwater pictures taken by Management Sciences Development Deputy Chief of Party Brian Francisco during his diving trips in Timor-Leste. More photos showing Timor-Leste's marine bio-diversity are available from Francisco's blog "Underwater East Timor" at <http://www.uwet.blogspot.com/>.

## Coral Triangle Initiative Team's Visit

A team from the Coral Triangle Initiative visited Timor-Leste in late 2008 for a preliminary discussion with key government officials on developing a National Plan of Action to protect the country's marine biodiversity.

While many marine ecosystems in neighboring countries have been heavily impacted by dynamite fishing, coastal pollution and over-fishing, Timor-Leste still has diverse coral reefs that are virtually untouched.

USAID has pledged nearly \$40 million to support the international effort to protect the Coral Triangle, also known as the "Amazon of the Seas" with its great expanse of mangroves, coral reefs and diversity of fish, from grave threats such as pollution, unsustainable fishing

practices and climate change.

"The U.S. government's decision to support the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) underscores its commitment to work in partnership with six nations, including Timor-Leste, to preserve their marine and coastal ecosystems in this key region. This work is especially urgent for a region which represents 30% of the world's coral reefs and 75% of the known coral species," U.S. Ambassador Hans G. Klemm said.

The CTI consortium's partners include the Asian Development Bank, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Program, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Bank, the Australian Government, the Walton Family Foundation,

and the NGO consortium, all under the leadership of the CT6 governments -- Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands.

The CTI will address the challenges of food security, sustainable livelihoods, responsible trade, good governance, biodiversity preservation, and climate change. These are issues that cross political and geographical boundaries.

"By coordinating our efforts, leveraging our funds, uniting our political will, and reaching out to key stakeholders, we can save these extraordinary marine ecosystems," said Olivier Carduner, Director of USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia.



# SPOTLIGHT

*Q&A with USAID Representative Mark Anthony White*

## Having USAID in a Country is Not Just a Project; It's About People-Level Impact

As USAID Representative to Timor-Leste, Mark A. White manages an annual portfolio of approximately \$23 million designed to help Timor-Leste become a stable, secure, democratic and prosperous country.

A Foreign Service Officer, White most recently served as Director of the Office of Social Sector Development for the USAID Mission in Afghanistan. During his tenure in Afghanistan, he administered health, education and other social sector programs for USAID, working closely with the Government of Afghanistan.

His 14 years of service with USAID has taken him to various other countries, including Zambia, Egypt and Cambodia. Much of his work has focused on improving public health in developing countries.

*It has been 9 months since you arrived in Timor-Leste, how has it been so far?*

I arrived in April 2008 and I remember it was a tense time—the country was still under a “state of emergency”. There were also IDP camps all over town. Much has changed since then--the streets feel quite safe now. Our partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has closed down almost all of the IDP camps they were managing in Dili and Baucau. At the height of the crisis, CRS, with USAID's support, was managing 15 IDP camps. So, there have been some positive developments. The resilience that the Timorese people have shown all this time has really amazed me.

Coming from one of the oldest democracies in the world to one of the newest democracies has equally been both a learning

and sharing experience. One of the country's greatest assets—the people of Timor Leste—continues to inspire me to put forth my professional best to achieve “people-level impact”, such as saving the lives of mothers and children; training that leads to increased productivity and better income; developing private sector businesses, and generally giving hope to the hopeless.

*How does this assignment compare to your previous posts?*

At this point in my career, I have lived/worked in over 20 different countries in most regions of the world. Most of my time has been spent in either Africa, Asia or the Middle East. Timor-Leste is definitely among one of the most unique countries I've lived/worked in. First, I have never lived on an island for an extended

period of time. Secondly, the unique culture and history of the Timorese people—continues to make my work interesting, as well as challenging. Lastly, the intellect and the willingness of the Timorese people to excel motivates me. I learn something new everyday, I try to incorporate that in my work. I believe development must take place within a cultural context, and, at the end of the day, help provide people with a better quality of life and living.

*What do you think are the strengths of USAID's programs in Timor-Leste? What do you see as areas of improvement?*

Over 70 percent of USAID-funded programs are targeted at rural areas and are in every district of the country. So, our assistance is far-reaching. The



USAID Representative Mark A. White

strength of our programs lies in the quality of interventions.

These interventions are designed to: create an environment for better health services for Timorese families, especially children; promote democracy and good governance; and provide jobs and incomes.

For example, USAID supported the creation of Cooperativa Café Timor (CCT), a cooperative association of 22,000 coffee farmers that markets approximately 40 percent of the country's production each year. At \$12 million, CCT's exports in 2008 were the highest ever recorded.

In this newsletter, we will regularly showcase USAID projects like this in Timor-Leste

While I have a lot to say about perceived strengths, there are areas for improvement. We need to streamline our activities—by that, I mean ‘focus’ and ‘concentrate’ our efforts, both programmatic and geographical, in areas where we have a

comparative advantage and can have a hugely measurable impact.

*Your vision as USAID Representative to Timor-Leste?*

I believe that “without a vision, people perish”. The vision is simply “taking leadership responsibility for developmental needs”. Having USAID in a country is not just a project; it is about “people-level impact”. Our vision is for Timor-Leste to become a society better equipped to compete in the 21st century, especially its youth.

*Any message for the Timorese people at this time?*

As President Barack Obama, the 44th President of the United States, stated in his inaugural address on January 20, 2009: “To the people of poor (developing) nations, we pledge to work alongside you to make your farms flourish and let clean waters flow; to nourish starved bodies and feed hungry minds.” We will continue to work hand in hand with the Timorese people, to realize this dream for Timor-Leste.

## IN BRIEF: USAID LAUNCHES 4 NEW PROJECTS

**District Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Services (DWASH)** is a four-year, \$16,184,283 project implemented by CDM International. DWASH will have four primary components: (1) water supply and sanitation access improvement, (2) watershed planning and management, (3) development and strengthening of community-based organizations, and (4) sanitation marketing and hygiene promotion. The project will initially be implemented in two districts, Oecussi and either Manatuto or Lautem, and eventually will reach four districts. Timor-Leste has exceptionally low water supply and sanitation coverage, and USAID's District Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene

Services program supports the government's agenda to improve rural communities' access to potable water.

**Support for Local Governance, Elections, and Civil Society** is a three-year, \$3 million project implemented by The Asia Foundation. The project has two principal objectives: 1) support credible, peaceful, and fair *suco* and municipal elections by providing assistance for development of the electoral legal framework and implementation, voter education, and election monitoring; and 2) enhance the capacity of 150 newly-elected *suco* councils in four districts, likely Oecussi, Bobonaro, Ainaro, and Baucau, to strengthen citizen participation in village and municipal governance.

USAID is embarking on four new projects: (1) district water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services; (2) support for local governance, elections, and civil society; (3) planning for responsible parenthood, and (4) community-oriented policing program.

**Planning for Responsible Parenthood** is a two-year, \$750,000 project implemented by Catholic Relief Services. The project aims to reach 10,000 women as direct beneficiaries and 50,000 indirect beneficiaries with natural family planning

services as a means of improving the health of Timorese mothers and children.

The project will strengthen the Church's capacity to deliver natural family planning services in Baucau, Viqueque, and Lautem, as well as Ministry of Health clinics' capacity to incorporate natural family planning education and services within the range of other services they already provide.

**Community-Oriented Policing Program** is an 18-month \$599,855 pilot project that aims to mitigate the threat of violent conflict by strengthening community-police relations through research, policy dialogue, and forging partnerships between police and communities. Implemented by The Asia Foundation, the project's

immediate objectives include: (1) increasing knowledge of perceived sources of insecurity at the community-level; (2) increasing interaction and partnership between police and community members; and (3) increasing and informing national dialogue on community-oriented policing. By achieving these objectives, the project aims to mitigate conflict in Timor-Leste by strengthening norms of democratic governance in the police.

The project design is guided by consultations with the Ministry for Security—the civilian ministry in charge of the police—the *Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste* (PNTL), and community leaders, and will build on nascent efforts by the PNTL in the area of community policing.